

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board



A state board created to promote
environmental education
within all segments of society.

2001-2003 BIENNIAL REPORT

September 2003

The 2001-2003 period saw a number of changes to the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board and its programs.

In 2002 the legislature, at the request of the WEEB, amended the state statute that details the make-up of the Board. Two seats were added. One seat represents the forestry constituency; the other seat represents the energy industry.

The changes to the make-up of the Board complement changes made to the WEEB's environmental education grant program. The 2001-2003 biennial budget did not contain an annual \$200,000 appropriation of general program revenue for the WEEB's general environmental education grant program. Thus, the WEEB's budget for its general environmental education grant program was reduced from approximately \$230,000 per year (\$200,000 in GPR funds and approximately \$30,000 from a 5% surcharge on environmental fines) to approximately \$30,000 per year.

However, an additional appropriation of \$200,000 annually in segregated fees from the forestry account of the conservation fund was included within the budget. Prior legislation directs the use of these segregated funds to forestry education grants. Thus, the forestry education component of the WEEB grant program increased from \$190,000 annually to \$390,000 annually.

In 2001, the WEEB entered into a three year contract with the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation to administer an energy education grant program using Focus on Energy funds. During the 2001 grant cycle \$90,000 was available for distribution. During the 2002 grant cycle

\$180,000 was available. An additional \$180,000 will be available for distribution as part of the 2003 grant cycle.

While the WEEB is pleased with the expansion of the forestry and energy components of its grant program, the nearly eight-fold decrease in the general grant program is a very real concern. The WEEB's ability to carry out its mission is certainly hampered. The Board, along with the Grant and Development Committees, has undertaken several initiatives to deal with this change in circumstances.

As the WEEB strives to incorporate new initiatives, it continues to work diligently to provide opportunities for Wisconsin residents to learn about the importance of creating and maintaining sustainable economic and ecological environments in the state. This report provides an overview of the projects that have been made possible over the last two years by the WEEB grant program. The diversity of projects attests to the many venues of daily life environmental education permeates. Environmental education ensures our Wisconsin heritage of concern and stewardship for our environment will continue for generations to come.

If, as you review this report, questions arise, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Rick Koziel, Chairperson





May 27, 2003

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) makes many important contributions to the health and well being of the people of the State of Wisconsin, and I am pleased that it will continue this tradition.

Protecting the environment is one of my highest priorities as Governor, and ensuring that all citizens can enjoy a clean and healthy environment is essential to our way of life here in Wisconsin.

The WEEB plays a major role in that effort. Of particular importance is the cause of environmental literacy and the collaborative work that is being done with both the next generation and, indeed, all of the citizens of Wisconsin.

We cannot be reminded enough that we are called upon to be stewards of the environment, and that we have a duty to take on that role as effectively as possible. WEEB, its members, and supporters are achieving that. Best wishes, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Doyle
Governor

Education. It is at the heart of everything we do. The UW System and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board have long recognized the importance of providing educational opportunities to the state's business leaders, government officials, and citizens. Collaborative efforts among these constituencies, made possible via WEEB grant funding, have facilitated the identification and implementation of creative, economically feasible solutions to a variety of environmental concerns. The UW System supports restoring the WEEB grant program budget to historical levels so that Wisconsin citizens can continue to receive the highest quality educational services and programs.

Katharine Lyall, President University of Wisconsin System



When my wife and I moved from Alabama to Wisconsin a short time ago after being selected to lead the Wisconsin Technical College System, I was impressed by the quality and concern for the natural environment. Wisconsin parks, lakes, nature centers, woodlands, wetlands and contoured farm lands are much of what makes Wisconsin so attractive to so many people and certainly to us.

Conservation mindedness, however, is not to be taken for granted. Overall we are a comparatively wasteful people. In the big scheme of things, wasteful behaviors related to our natural environment can lead to indifference and decline in many areas of our lives and our capacity for healthful lifestyles and citizen responsibility.

It has been the commitment of our college faculties, program leaders, students, industries and communities to, as our system vision statement says, "...develop individuals who apply knowledge and skills to enhance quality of life and boost economic vitality."

Quality of life is about more than dollars and meaningful work, it is citizenship, environmental stewardship and finding value in all things, great and small in the natural environment so necessary in our increasingly fast-paced world. Investments of time and resources to make it possible to conduct the grants program and to carry out the mission of WEEB through the schools and non-profit organizations across the state are well placed. I congratulate every single individual that has made, through WEEB, a commitment to advancing environmental education.

I hope you enjoy this report. The projects are fabulous! The outcomes will last more than a lifetime.

Richard Carpenter, President Wisconsin Technical College System



The goal of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is to protect and preserve Wisconsin's rich natural resources for future generations. To accomplish this goal – Wisconsin needs an educated citizenry that is both knowledgeable and willing to take action at the community level. Education is the tool that will provide our students, teachers and citizens with the skills to accomplish this task.

It is critical that Wisconsin look ahead to prevent environmental degradation, while we clean up past problems. If we are to be successful on issues like land use, lakeshore development, clean up of the Fox River, Chronic Wasting Disease, air quality and others, these issues will need to be understood by both youth and adults. The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board provides the leadership and resources for educating all ages about the environment. Through WEEB grants, hundreds of organizations have received funding and guidance to complete both state and local environmental education programs. The Department of Natural Resources is proud to serve on the board and strongly support the various programs that WEEB provides.

Scott Hassett, Secretary Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Our New Wisconsin Promise states that "schools must build exciting, challenging programs that are creative and diverse in the way we teach children." Environmental literacy programs promoted by the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) are one answer to this Wisconsin promise. While learning about the environment through WEEB programs, students often perform better, because they feel empowered, are engaged in their own learning, and challenged to make decisions about the environment.

As your state superintendent, I feel it is important for all students in Wisconsin to become environmentally literate. Environmental literacy is fundamental to the future well-being of our state. Environmental literacy is grounded in our state's history, where environmental stewardship is important to every citizen and begins with the implementation of Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Environmental Education. The partnership and collaboration of the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board promotes a quality environmental education for every child in Wisconsin; one hallmark of our New Wisconsin Promise.

Elizabeth Burmaster, Superintendent Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction



Board Members

Debra Blomberg 1998-2001
Business and Industry
Ogema

Janet Brandt 2002-
Energy Industry
Madison

Brain Burke 1995-2003
Legislative Representative, State Senate
Milwaukee

Bill Buckley 1997-2003
Environmental Organizations
Marshfield

Krista Connors James 2002-
Higher Education Faculty
Menomonie

Sabrina Gentile 2000-2003
Agriculture
Madison

Jim Gibson 2000-
WI Technical College System Designee
Madison

Robin Harris 1996-
University of Wisconsin System Designee
Madison

Sheila Harsdorf 2001-2003
Legislative Representative, State Senate
River Falls

Mark Ishihara 2001-
Business and Industry
Germantown

DuWayne Johnsrud 2003-
Legislative Representative, State Assembly
Eastman

Neal Kedzie 1999-2003
Legislative Representative, State Assembly
Elkhorn

Neal Kedzie 2003-
Legislative Representative, State Senate
Elkhorn

Rick Koziel 1996-
Nature Centers/ Museums/Zoos
Fall Creek

Robert Leege 2003-
Agriculture
Madison

Shelley Lee 1999-
Department of Public Instruction Designee
Madison

Pat Marinac 1998-
Environmental Educators
Iola

Mark Miller 2000-
Legislative Representative, State Assembly
Monona

William Neuhaus 1990-
Labor
Kenosha

Cathy Nordine 2002-
Forestry
Land O' Lakes

Fred Risser 2003-
Legislative Representative, State Senate
Madison

Al Stenstrup 1999-
Department of Natural Resources Designee
Madison

Richard Wilke 1990-2002
Higher Education Faculty
Stevens Point

David Wisnefske 2003-
Environmental Organizations
Monroe

Ginny Carlton
Administrative Liaison

Randy Champeau
WCEE Liaison

Who We Are

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) is made up of representatives of the Department of Natural Resources; Department of Public Instruction; University of Wisconsin System; Wisconsin Technical College System; one majority and one minority party senator and one majority and one minority party representative; and nine members representing environmental educators, conservation and environmental organizations, business and industry, agriculture, labor, faculty of public and private institutions of higher education, energy industry, forestry and nature centers, museums, and zoos.

Our Mission

To provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, workplaces, and communities.

Our primary duties established by 1989 Wisconsin Act 299 are:

- Identify needs and establish priorities for environmental education in Wisconsin
- Create and maintain a competitive grants program that is in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the Board through continual appraisal and evaluation
- Be a catalyst in seeking private funds in support of the grants program

Our four central purposes are:

- Provide positive leadership, advocacy and policy making in the area of environmental literacy and education
- Support the development of local leaders and their fellow citizens to become environmentally aware and concerned enough to act positively on environmental issues
- Advocate the development and implementation of interdisciplinary environmentally-based curricula at all levels of the educational system
- Support the continuing professional development of staff working at all levels of formal or informal education to enable them to accomplish needed environmental education goals

2001-2003 Accomplishments

Planning for the future

The WEEB continues to address objectives/outcomes identified within the strategic planning document, "EE 2005: A Plan for Advancing Environmental Education in Wisconsin"

The six major priorities include:

- Supporting the implementation of environmental education in schools
- Developing leadership in environmental education
- Expanding non-formal environmental education
- Conducting environmental literacy assessments
- Communicating the environmental education message
- Obtaining private funds to supplement the environmental education grant program



Enhanced Networking and Communication

The WEEB awarded a number of grants to facilitate networking and communication between formal and non-formal educational facilities across the state. One example, "Nature Net," provides an online directory (www.naturenet.com) of Wisconsin nature centers and their programs. For more information see page 14.

Reporting requirements for grant recipients now require evidence of dissemination regarding the grant project. Websites, press releases, newsletter articles, etc. have thus provided additional exposure for the WEEB and its programs.

The WEEB updated its own website to include a "Support Opportunities" segment. Information on how to make a donation, serve as a volunteer, or become a "Friend of WEEB" is included.

Expanded Grant Program

The WEEB, in cooperation with the Department of Administration's Energy Bureau and the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation, served as the administering agency for a \$270,000 energy education grant program (\$90,000 in 2001, \$180,000 in 2002). Funds were derived from the Wisconsin Focus on Energy program. Grants were restricted to applicants located within a twenty-three county area of northeastern Wisconsin.

The energy education projects were required to meet the EE goals and the process for solicitation, review, selection, oversight, and evaluation of proposals and projects corresponded to those already established for the general environmental education grant program. [See pages 7 to 9.]



Grant Program

Since its creation in 1990, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board's (WEEB) grant program has provided communities, schools, and organizations with funds to enhance environmental education programs.

Funds to support the grant program are provided by donations and state appropriations. For the 2001-2003 budget period, annual appropriations to the WEEB included \$400,000 from the forestry account of the conservation fund (of which up to 5% can be used toward administrative expenses) and a 5% assessment on state environmental fines levied and collected. In 2001, the Board received \$90,000 from the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (Focus on Energy funds) for an energy education program. This program was expanded to \$180,000 in 2002.

In 2001 and 2002 there were a total of 190 grant applications submitted; 83 were funded. Grant requests ranged from \$150 to \$20,000 (the maximum allowed).

Since 1997, when the WEEB was transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the UW-System, the WEEB has distributed \$2.6 million to 246 projects. The funded projects have generated well beyond the 25 percent match required. In fact the matching funding totals over \$2.8 million. During this time period 547 applications were received requesting over \$6.4 million. Obviously only a portion of the applicants receive funding.

The WEEB has received requests for proposals from every corner of the state and from virtually every type of organization, agency, or group that is eligible to receive funding. Each grant proposal submitted receives a rigorous review by volunteer committees. These volunteers represent the many entities which are interested and/or involved in educating the citizens of Wisconsin about the environment. Each project is evaluated at three levels:

1) completeness and accuracy of program requirements, 2) technical review, and 3) merit review.

The technical review team evaluates each project on the following criteria:

- Adherence to the WEEB priorities
- Budget accuracy and funding contributions
- Thoroughness of application page and statement of need
- Project goals, objectives, activities, and evaluations

The merit review team then continues evaluation of projects that passed the technical review to determine overall quality and value of the project, ability to achieve goals, development of partnerships, use of existing resources, and promotion of community environmental education.

General Guidelines

Grant projects need to assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education. Projects need to help people become environmentally aware, knowledgeable, skilled, and dedicated to commit to work individually and collectively, to defend, improve, and sustain the quality of the environment on behalf of present and future citizens.

Eligibility

- Corporations (meaning nonstock, nonprofit corporations organized under Ch. 181, Wis Stats.)
- All units of government
- Public and non-public education institutions (with some restrictions)

The following are NOT eligible:

- Individuals
- Private foundations
- Pervasively sectarian nonprofit colleges

Project Duration

Grants awarded as part of the 2001 grant cycle were made for the period of July 1, 2001 through December 31, 2002. Grants awarded as part of the 2002 grant cycle were made for the period of July 1, 2002 through December 31, 2003.

Funding Priorities for 2001 and 2002

The funded grants reflected the priorities that were in effect at the time. They included:

- A. Assist the WEEB in meeting statewide initiatives including
 1. statewide development of cooperative relationships between formal and non-formal educators aimed at achieving the Wisconsin Environmental Education Standards and assessment;
 2. statewide implementation of environmental education program approval guidelines for PI 34 standards for teacher licensing and certification;
 3. statewide environmental education leadership development or enhancement programs.
- B. Promote broad community environmental education through the development and implementation of community environmental education projects. Projects should increase
 1. the number and/or diversity of individuals and/or organizations involved in environmental education;
 2. community knowledge of specific environmental issues or problems;
 3. community participation in the resolution of environmental problems.
- C. Make use of existing resources and successful projects. This does not include support of the ongoing operations of a program. Existing resources and successful projects are defined as
 1. interdisciplinary environmental curricula;
 2. environmental education training for staff or group leaders;
 3. environmental education programs developed for use on outdoor sites;
 4. successful programs or WEEB projects developed by the applicant or another entity.

D. Create new environmental education resources or programs.

E. Promote implementation of Wisconsin's Environmental Education Academic Standards.

Funding priorities are reviewed and set annually during the Board's July planning meeting.

Preferred Characteristics

- Develops partnerships and cooperative ventures with organizations or agencies
- Reaches large numbers of individuals
- Attains realistic and localized goals
- Shows change in the actions or behaviors of the learners
- Provides opportunities for learners to become actively involved in examining and resolving environmental issues
- Provides learning experiences using sites outside of classroom/ workplace
- Includes activities that draw upon multiple intelligences of learners
- Includes activities that emphasize the process of inquiry

Changes from Previous Years

Creation of Mini-Grant Program

In order to encourage more applications from novice grant writers, the WEEB created a "mini-grant" program in 2001. This program's maximum award is \$1,000. Awards are limited to project directors and grant writers who have not previously received a WEEB grant. Application guidelines are similar to the regular grant program, except that a single page free-form narrative is requested, rather than the more formal "goals, objectives, activities" narrative format required for the other grant award levels.

Creation of School Forest Grant Program and Modifications to General Grant Program

In April 2001, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board identified \$274,376 worth of general environmental education projects for grant funding. The WEEB intended to use \$200,000 in GPR funds appropriated as part of the 2001 budget and \$74,376 from the assessment account to fund these projects. The WEEB also identified \$161,338 worth of forestry education projects for grant funding. The WEEB intended to use a portion of the \$190,000 in SEG fees appropriated as part of the 2001 budget to fund these projects. The remaining \$38,000 would be returned to the forestry account of the conservation fund.

When the 2001-2003 biennial budget was completed in October, it did not contain the GPR appropriation, but did contain a \$390,000 SEG appropriation. Since prior legislation limited the use of these funds to forestry education projects the WEEB sought and received permission (one time basis) to use \$200,000 of the SEG fee money to fund general environmental education projects.

In July 2001 materials for the 2002-2003 grant cycle were printed and distributed. The materials identified sources of the funds as: "private donations, general appropriations (\$200,000), the forestry account of the conservation fund (\$190,000), State of Wisconsin Focus on Energy funds (\$180,000) and assessments on environmental fines (all remaining funds)." The materials also indicated, "the availability of funds will not be precisely known until the 2001-2003 state biennial budget is approved." In October when the budget was passed, it became apparent that the general grant budget would need to be reduced by \$200,000 and the forestry education could be increased by \$200,000. The WEEB publicized this change via its website and other agency's newsletters.

At the WEEB's July 2002 quarterly meeting, the WEEB voted to reduce the maximum award for general grants from \$20,000 to \$5,000. This change will be effective with the 2003-2004 grant cycle.

Assistance for Applicants

Information on past projects can be searched through the Internet. The WEEB home page address is www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb

Copies of funded proposals are available via the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan System. Request each volume by its call number: ED.1/2:E 58/ 2/ XXXX (XXXX = the year). The most recent volume is 2003.

The "End of Year Summary" reports from grant recipients are also available via the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan System. Request each volume by its call number: ENV 5.1/2:G 72/ XXXX (XXXX=year). The most recent volume is 2001.

Grant recipients are required to submit final reports. Reports may be viewed at the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education Resources Library, UW-Stevens Point.

For a copy of the Request for Proposal (application form), contact:

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board

110B College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Stevens Point WI 54481
(715) 346-3805
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb
weeb@uwsp.edu

“Snap Shots” of Funded Projects

Highlighting 8 of the 83 funded 2001 and 2002 projects.

Positive Leadership, Advocacy and Policy Making

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Strengthening the Link Between WI State Parks Programming and Formal Educators
Log # 2001-0006

The purpose of this grant was to improve current and future school programs in the Wisconsin State Park System by familiarizing Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff with formal education trends, academic standards, and assessment techniques.

Thirty-eight DNR educators attended an intensive 3-day workshop. Content included educational terminology, pedagogy, learning styles, brain dominance, modality, teaching methods, assessment techniques, environmental education resources, and strategies for working with school systems. The process of correlating field trip programs to the state academic standards was also reviewed. A goal was to enable DNR educators to "speak the same language" as formal educators (classroom teachers), so that cooperative planning and improved credibility with area school districts might occur.

An on-line publication *A Teacher's Guide to the Wisconsin State Parks and Forests* (www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/interp/school/index.html) was produced. It provides information about:

- Thirteen state properties that offer field trip programs correlated to the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards.
- Ninety-nine field trips with information about grade levels, seasons, topics, duration, number of students, and fees, if applicable.
- Information about other resources that are available at parks for teachers to borrow.

Side-benefits of the grant project included: knowledge of what colleagues at other state facilities are offering, a somewhat standardized format for writing lesson plans, increased accountability for the content and quality of the programs being offered, enhanced networking with other educators in the DNR and teachers in their area, and the first statewide promotional piece that highlights the educational offerings in the WSPS.

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education

Resources on the Web
Log # 2002-0036

A web based resource which provides access to environmental education lessons will be established in cooperation with the UW-Extension IDEAS Portal web site (www.IDEAS.Wisconsin.edu). The IDEAS site already allows formal and nonformal educators to search a database of lessons by grade, subject category (e.g., language arts, math, science, social studies, art and design, music and information technology), and even by academic standard. Database search results provide links to a complete lesson plan or project description.

WEEB grant funds will allow a team of educators to locate and catalog web-based environmental education resources so that a new subject area (environmental education) may be added to the IDEAS system.

This grant project runs through December 2003.

DNR

Photo: Debbie Beringer



Development of Local Leaders

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
Environmental Youth Leadership Program
Log # 2001-0063

Three hundred and fifty-six youth, attending after-school programs at ten community learning centers (CLC) in Milwaukee Public Schools, were served through the "Explorers" (11-12 year olds) and "Pals" (6-10 year olds) programs. Explorer youth were able to attend five different "Adventure Club" leadership campouts, three leadership campouts, and six outdoor environmental education field trips. Youth "earned" the trips and campouts by attending bi-monthly on-site training sessions. Programs for the "Pals" included recycling and differences and similarities in wild and domestic animals.



Explorer students attended an intensive 5-day environmental education experience at Camp Whitcomb/Mason designed to instill awareness, knowledge, and responsibility for the natural environment. They then designed and implemented their own environmental action projects at their regular after-school CLC site. The Adventure Club participated in a community clean-up of a vacant lot, which was then turned into a green space. A two day follow-up session enabled participants to make presentations on their projects and further their environmental action skills. Youth also disseminated information about their projects via community newspapers, newsletters and the Internet.



WCEE

Photo: Dennis Yockers

The average person uses 63 gallons of water a day.

Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center
Communities Conserving Water and Energy Through Groundwater Guardian
Log # 2002-0011

The Groundwater Guardian program utilizes community volunteers to educate and motivate the public to protect groundwater. This grant will develop materials (e.g. fact sheets, displays, brochures, etc.) showing the links between water conservation, saving energy and money in the home. The expected result is enhanced awareness by Wisconsin residents, and the adoption of simple alternatives to save significant amounts of water and energy.



Over 1100 copies of a newly designed fact sheet were distributed at the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education Conference, the Wisconsin Education Association conference, the Wisconsin Stream Monitoring Conference, the Wisconsin Rivers Conference and the national Ground-water Foundation Conference. An additional 400 copies were given directly to homeowners at drinking water education meetings in Fond du Lac, Calumet, Taylor, and Iowa Counties. The Department of Commerce distributed 12,000 copies through the August 2002 Wisconsin Construction Codes Report.

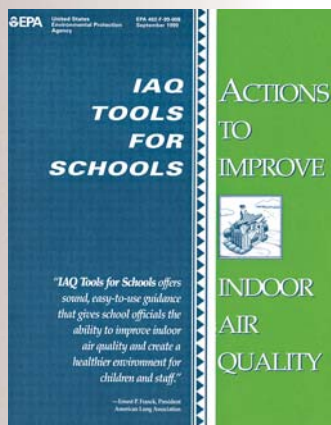
A proposal to add water conservation information to a proposed "Master Energizer" citizen training program (based on the same format as UW-Extension's Master Gardener and Master Woodland Steward programs) has also been made.

This grant project runs through December 2003.

Development and Implementation of Curricula

American Lung Association of Wisconsin
Tools for Schools
 Log # 2001-0072

The "Tools for Schools" program was developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and contains checklists for teachers, administrative staff, health officers, and other district staff regarding building maintenance, food service, waste management, ventilation, and building repairs.



The WEEB grant was designed to facilitate the distribution of the "Tools for Schools" materials to school districts in southeastern Wisconsin. Forty-two individuals from six school districts participated in a day long workshop to learn how to assess, and if needed, improve the indoor air quality of classrooms, offices, and gyms in an easy cost-efficient manner. Similar workshops for the Milwaukee Public Schools (46 participants) and Wausaukee schools (60 participants) were also held. One hour "break-out session" workshops were also conducted at the Midwest Environmental Education Conference and at the Wisconsin Education Association Conference.

Center for Land Use Education
Land Use Environmental Education in the Social Studies Curriculum
 Log # 2002-0008



A four day workshop for social studies teachers provided general information about land use and land use planning (including a field trip to a local county planning office), practical activities teachers could use in their classrooms, Internet and print resources, and information about the Comprehensive Planning Smart Growth Law passed in 1999.

Follow-up contact between the project directors and teachers was used to draft a conceptual framework for land use environmental education that will be distributed to teachers throughout Wisconsin.

This grant project runs through December 2003.

Professional Development

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: College of Professional Studies

*Generating Energy and Leadership Among
Wisconsin's Family and Consumer Educators*
Log # 2001-EN05

A two-day workshop attended by 21 family and consumer education teachers, and facilitated by Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Energy Coalition, K-12 Energy Education Program, Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, and Midwest Renewable Energy Association staff members, allowed for the exchange of ideas on how to incorporate energy education into the Family and Consumer Education classrooms. Participants were given a binder containing readings, activities, and resources pertaining to energy and FCE including a "Home Ecosystem Kit" that fosters efficient use of home energy.

Follow-up activities included presentations at FCE conferences and summits, a contest for FCE teachers with 9 energy efficient refrigerators for classroom use distributed as prizes, assistance with WEEB grant writing and KEEP course scheduling.

Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance

Jobs in the Forest
Log # 2001-0069

Four career days—Rhinelander (Agriculture Research Station), Fall Creek (Beaver Creek Reserve), Wisconsin Rapids (Mid-State Technical College) and Seymour (Fallen Timbers Environmental Center) were held for 122 high school students and 9 teachers.

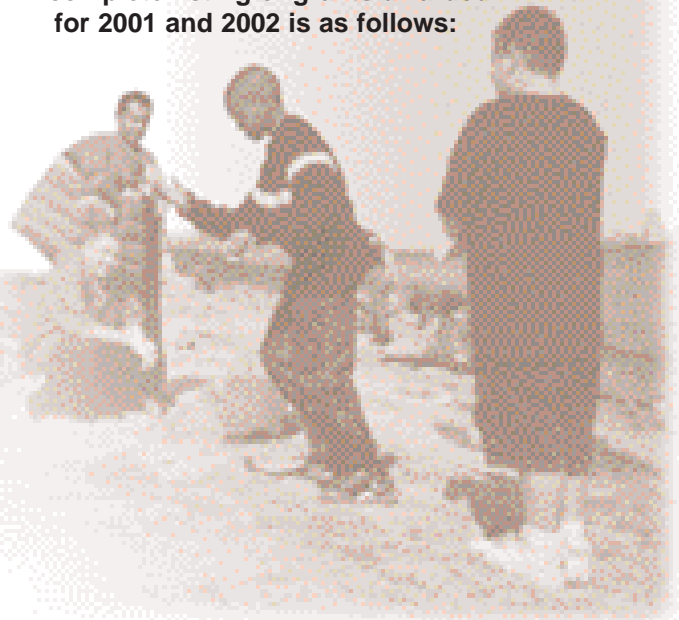
Many students have misperceptions about the job opportunities in the natural resource related fields, in particular logging. The image of a lumberjack with a double bit axe or a massive chainsaw cutting every tree that gets in its way is a fairly common image. The goal of the career day was to dispel this misperception and to not only promote careers involving 4-year and 2-year college degrees, but also careers available to those who do not wish to, or cannot afford to, go on to college.

Some presenters had high school diplomas and then had specific training in their field, such as equipment operators and mechanics. Other presenters held PhDs. Presenters included logging company owners and their equipment operators, log truck drivers, wildlife biologists, entomologists, diesel mechanics, heavy equipment troubleshooting technicians, arborists, teachers, foresters, safety trainers, portable sawmill owners, equipment simulators for training operators, etc. Students were able to see the variety of career choices available within the forest products industry.



These are just a few examples of the creative projects funded by the grants program. For information about other projects, please consult our web page at: (www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb) and refer to the remainder of this document.

**A complete listing of grants awarded
for 2001 and 2002 is as follows:**



2001 Wisconsin Environmental Education Grants

Aldo Leopold Nature Center **\$19,675.00**
(Monona)
Replicating Nature Net

To enhance existing environmental education programs by better connecting non-formal education (i.e., nature centers, museums, zoos) with formal education (i.e., public and private schools).



ALNC

Photo: Gail Epping

American Lung Association of Wisconsin **\$8,198.00**
(Brookfield)
Tools for Schools

To enable the Lung Association to train school representatives to identify problem areas and improve the air quality of their classrooms.

Appleton Area School District:
Jefferson Elementary **\$6,109.00**
(Appleton)
Going "Hands-On" with Solar Energy



AASO

Photo: Mary Ann Garvey

To incorporate hands-on solar energy resources into the curriculum.

Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron Counties' Land Conservation Department (ABDI) **\$20,000.00**

(Ashland)
The Northern Landscape: Sharing a Common Ground. An Environmental Education Conference for Northern Wisconsin

To plan and hold an environmental education conference in cooperation with the Upper Chippewa River Basin and other groups in a consortium.

Beaver Dam Unified School District:
Educational Service Center **\$19,125.00**
(Beaver Dam)
Beaver Dam Charter School Environmental Curriculum Development/Implementation Project

To work with representatives of the U.S. Department of Interior at Horicon Marsh, the WI DNR, and the Earth Partnership Program to convert the school's entire curriculum to an environmental focus using hands-on, relevant, project-based curriculum focused on marsh, prairie, and lake.

Photo: Rick Eckerstorfer



**Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee:
Mardak Center for Administration
and Training** **\$19,110.00**
(Milwaukee)
Environmental Youth Leadership Program

To provide students with the opportunity, skills and experiences to become youth leaders in local environmental issues.

Cable Natural History Museum **\$7,611.00**
(Cable)
A Celebration of Trees

To enable residents and visitors of northern Wisconsin to become better prepared to make informed decisions about forestry issues through: 1) an exhibit that explores tree biology, forest ecology, and forest management and products through a variety of interpretive methods 2) a lecture series and 3) a series of interpretive field trips to local facilities.

**Cooperative Educational
Service Agency #10** **\$10,479.00**
(Chippewa Falls)
Chippewa Valley Nature Network

To create a network of the Chippewa Valley's environmental and historical sites which will work to ensure that the Chippewa Valley School District receives the best possible environment-based education through visits to outreach sites.

Dodgeland School District **\$15,959.00**
(Juneau)
*Environmental Education Curriculum to
Support an Outdoor Classroom*

To assess and modify the current curriculum to include hands-on inquiry based activities, develop PreK-12 science kits, and develop a 5-year plan for site development of the outdoor classroom.

**Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance
(FISTA)** **\$19,344.00**
(Rhineland)
Jobs in the Forest

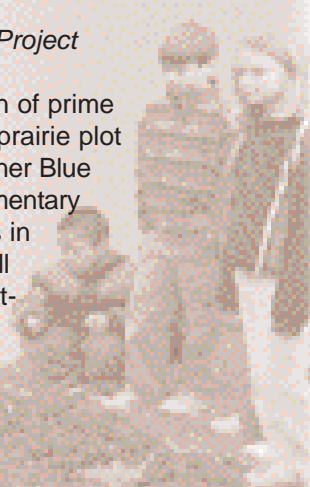
To provide a career day for high school, college and technical college students, and employers, right in the actual work environment to highlight the many professions involved in the wood products industry.



Photo: Barb Henderson

Freedom Area School District **\$14,000.00**
(Freedom)
Freedom Karner Blue Butterfly Project

For restoration and conservation of prime habitat on the school's existing prairie plot for the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly and creation of complementary classroom curricula for students in grades 6-12. Sixty educators will receive broad-based and project-specific environmental education training.





Friends of Wisconsin State Parks \$11,180.00

(Madison)

Expanding the Parks Packs Program to Include Great Lakes Park Packs

To expand the Wisconsin State Park System's Park Pack program to support the development and production of Great Lakes Park Packs.

Girl Scouts of America: Indian Waters Council

(Eau Claire)

A Walk Through Ecology

To expand the trail system at Camp Nawakwa to further develop environmental education programs with the help of a naturalist.



Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council	\$20,000.00
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(Stevens Point)

*A Pilot Program to Improve Forestry
Environmental Education in Central Wisconsin*

To train a minimum of fifty teachers to teach forestry environmental education lessons to over 5,000 of their students.

Hurley School District

(Hurley)

Fins, Furs, and Feathers

For student participation in authentic field work experiences by gathering data and noting observations on four wildlife species with supporting educational field trips to wildlife facilities.

Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful \$15,436.00

(Milwaukee)

A Coalition for Waste Reduction Education

For communities to take part in regional collaboration in waste reduction education, which includes festival waste reduction, use of the Green Pages newspaper section, and a scholarship competition.



**Madison Gas and Electric Company
Foundation (MG & E)** **\$14,525.00**
(Madison)
Community Solar Education Partnership

For teacher training programs and installation of photovoltaic systems on nine high schools.



**Midwest Renewable Energy Association
(MREA)** **\$10,880.00**
(Custer)
Taking Renewable Energy to the Kids

To develop and implement a new traveling, renewable energy/energy efficiency education summer program.



Michael Fields Agricultural Institute **\$17,637.00**
(East Troy)
Linking the Natural World and Sustainable Agriculture

To expand a successful environmental education curriculum to include an experiential-based course in agro-ecology including garden, farm, green-house and classroom activities for 4th to 6th grade students. Program will use the services of college graduates as instructors and thereby will expand present vocational training via a practicum experience.



Milwaukee Public Schools **\$15,877.00**
(Milwaukee)
Teaming to KEEP

Provide professional development opportunities to staff, specifically a K-12 Energy Education Program course and instruction on how to use a computerized lesson-sharing network.



MPS: MUSI

Photo: Rhulene Artis

**Natural Resources Foundation
of Wisconsin** **\$13,870.00**

(Madison)

Fostering a Sense of Wonder: The Project Learning Tree Early Childhood Program

To develop a Project Learning Tree Early Childhood program through enhancements, modifications, and addition to the current curriculum; and then to reach early childhood educators and their students in rural and urban areas with these new Wisconsin based forestry learning activities.

**Osseo-Fairchild School District:
Osseo-Fairchild High School** **\$16,485.00**

(Osseo)

The Osseo-Fairchild School Forest: An Outdoor Learning Site

To develop nature trails and construct buildings to allow for longer term stays and study at the forest. To enhance the understanding of forest management concepts by school faculty, students and community members so forest can be properly managed for education and recreation by the district and community.

Phillips School District **\$150.00**

(Phillips)

Awareness of energy use, overuse, and inequality throughout the world

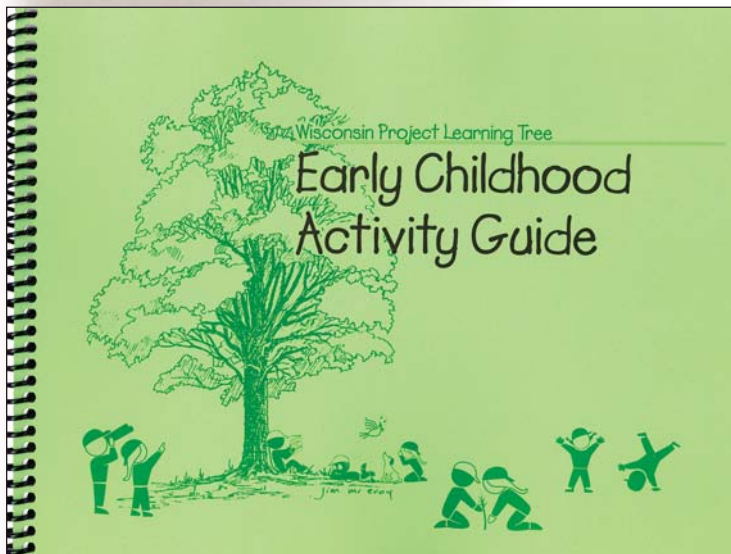
To educate 5th grade students about energy consumption in the world.

River Revitalization Foundation, Inc. **\$5,003.00**

(Milwaukee)

Milwaukee River Basin Conference

For a conference to allow for the exchange of up-to-date information on the rivers comprising the basin: the Milwaukee River, Menominee River, and the Kinnickinnick River.



**Natural Resources Foundation
of Wisconsin** **\$3,712.00**

(Madison)

Project Learning Tree: Energy and Me

To obtain and distribute Project Learning Tree Energy and Me teaching materials to facilitators and KEEP instructors.

Oakfield School District **\$20,000.00**

(Oakfield)

Belle Reynolds Woodland Project

Oakfield students, teachers, and community volunteers will develop citizen action experiences as they work together on a woodland project correlated to a new teacher created interdisciplinary environmental education curriculum.



Oakfield Tech Ed students built this split rail fence made from old utility poles to embellish their nature trail.

**Self Help and Resource Exchange (SHARE)
of Southwestern Wisconsin, Inc. \$19,981.00**
(Butler)

*Connecting the Dots: Sharing Understanding
of Energy for Safe, Healthy, and Sustainable
Communities*

To coordinate information gathering and
dissemination of energy awareness and
examine the role of energy production and
consumption in community lifestyles.

**Stevens Point Area School District:
Roosevelt Elementary \$4,117.00**
(Plover)

*Elaborations on a Theme: Energy Education
and Earth's Resources*

To provide teachers with training and resources
to facilitate hands-on instruction of energy
curriculum.

Sustainable Racine \$9,006.00
(Racine)

*Beyond Greenspace: An Educational Program
on Watershed Based Development*

For a conference to share planning concepts
and techniques for planners and elected
officials from municipal and county govern-
ments in Racine and Kenosha counties.

**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point:
College of Natural Resources \$5,441.00**
(Stevens Point)

*Environmental Education Outreach to
Southeast Asian Students*

To increase the environmental awareness
and interest in environmental careers of area
southeast asian middle school students through
their participation in three environmental
education programs.

**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point:
Central Wisconsin Environmental Station
(CWES) \$14,444.00**

(Amherst Junction)

*Developing a New Energy Education Curriculum
& Related Training Program at the
Central Wisconsin Environmental Station*



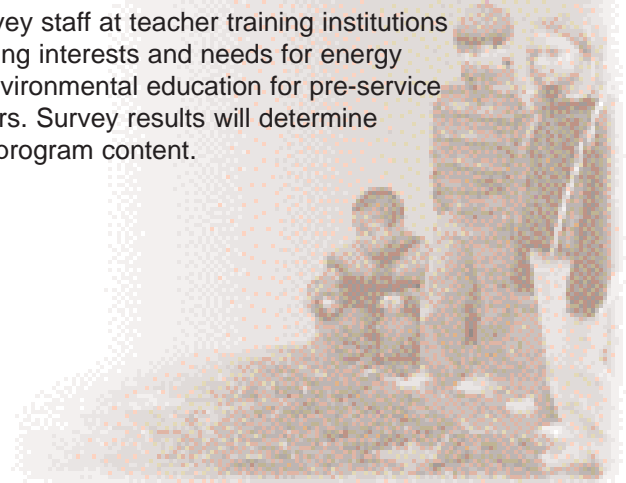
To develop a 5th and 6th grade energy
education curriculum based on KEEP to be
used at a non-formal educational facility and
to train future non-formal educators in its use.

**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point:
Wisconsin Center For Environmental
Education (WCEE) \$19,950.00**

(Stevens Point)

*Teacher Educators Networking for Energy &
Environmental Education*

To survey staff at teacher training institutions
regarding interests and needs for energy
and environmental education for pre-service
teachers. Survey results will determine
future program content.



**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point:
College of Professional Studies (CPS)**
\$13,555.00

(Stevens Point)
*Generating Energy and Leadership Among
Wisconsin's Family and Consumer Educators*

To identify opportunities for linkages and partnerships between Family and Consumer Education instructors and curricula and energy and environmental education staff and curricula.

**University of Wisconsin System:
Board of Regents**
\$4,468.00
(Madison)
*Fish and Environmental Health: A Look at
Aquatic Resources*

To re-excite teachers about teaching science and relating science curricula to other parts of the learning process, both inside and outside of school. A one-week course will educate participants about fisheries, sport fishing advisories related to contaminants, aquatic education and risk communication resources, ideas for field trips and laboratory learning, and volunteer action opportunities at Wisconsin lakes and streams. Teachers will generate curriculum materials and disseminate lessons through statewide professional channels.



Urban Ecology Center
\$16,099.00
(Milwaukee)
*The Water Partners' "Just Add Water"
Curriculum and Wisconsin Beach Sweep*

For implementation of "Just Add Water" curriculum that consists of five components to enhance environmental education, which include EE workshop, water property activities, in-school workshop for students, beach clean up of Milwaukee area beaches, and participation in an existing Water Partner EE program.

**Waunakee Community School District:
Waunakee High School**
\$13,268.00
(Waunakee)
*Waunakee Integrated Renewable Energy
Project*

To integrate fuel cell technology with existing photovoltaic system to produce a state of the art renewable energy facility and associated curriculum.



**Waupun School District:
Alternative High School** **\$17,486.00**
(Waupun)
*Waupun Dearholt Woodland Outdoor
Laboratory*

To integrate EE into teaching curricula for grades one, three, and five in areas of plant ecology, wildlife habitat, conservation stewardship, and forestry management.

Wausau Area Community Foundation **\$3,500.00**
(Wausau)
*Wausau Area Catholic Schools EE
Curriculum Initiative*

To revise the WACS curriculum to include objectives that meet Wisconsin's Environmental Education Academic Standards.

**Wausau School District:
East High School** **\$2,000.00**
(Wausau)
*Wausau East High School Renewable
Energy Project*

For a task force to select a solar energy system for installation and design a vision for infusing alternative energy into the district curriculum.

Wautoma Area School District **\$20,000.00**
(Wautoma)
*Building Project-Based Environmental
Education Across the Curriculum*

For an environmental education coordinator position to serve the 6000 plus visitors and develop and implement a project-based environmental education curriculum for the Wautoma School District.



**Wisconsin Association for Environmental
Education (WAEF)** **\$4,800.00**
(Amherst Junction)
Environmental Educators Race With the Sun

To conduct a workshop and a model car race at the Midwest Environmental Education Conference utilizing Junior Solar Sprint materials.

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
(DNR): Bureau of State Parks and Recreation** **\$12,797.00**
(Madison)
*Linking WI State Parks Environmental
Education with the Wisconsin
Academic Standards*

To strengthen relationship between Wisconsin State Park System educators and formal educators by providing park programs that aid teachers in achieving the Wisconsin Academic Standards and assessment.



**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
(DNR): Wildcat Mountain State Park**
\$9,931.00

(Ontario)

*Teaching Sustainable Forestry and Biodiversity
to Elementary Students*

To obtain equipment to make sustainable forestry and biodiversity kits that will be utilized by local educators and students as they traverse activity-based trails.



**Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools:
Grant Elementary School**
\$13,771.00

(Wisconsin Rapids)

Grant School Forest Curriculum Project

To provide workshops for Grant school staff, led by recognized experts in the field, so that outdoor activities may be written and/or collected and field tested for use at the Grant School Forest.

**Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers
(WSST): Office of Science Outreach**
\$2,350.00

(Oshkosh)

*The Next American Metropolis: Ecology,
Community, and Energy Needs*

For a teacher workshop to recognize the role of energy in forming and sustaining biological and societal communities.

**Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
Foundation (WWOA)**
\$19,340.00

(Stoughton)

Student & Teacher Forestry Education

For continued training of classroom teachers to lead students in forest related activities and help schools access the Seno Woodland Education Center by providing staff, equipment and on site resources.



2002 Wisconsin Environmental Education Grants

(Note: These projects run through December 31, 2003.)

Active Learning

\$19,973

(Madison)

How to Use School Forests: Video Plus

To produce a video documenting program successes at various Wisconsin school forests, to assist those considering program enhancements and/or program initiation at their own facilities to develop programs that are site compatible and educationally sound.

Aldo Leopold Foundation

\$19,740

(Baraboo)

The Woodland School: Workshops for Sustainable Land Stewardship

To offer private landowners intensive training in multi-resource land stewardship and conservation management so they may implement responsible stewardship practices on their own property and thereby balance ecological, aesthetic, recreational, and economic values, in a manner compatible with a variety of landowner objectives.

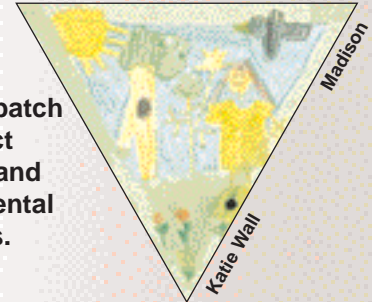
Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Inc.

\$14,380

(Madison)

Leopold P.I.N.E.S. (Partnership in Nature Education with Scouts)

To create a new Wisconsin-based forestry badge, forest-based community service projects, information on environmental careers for women, and Girl Scout mentoring programs that will enable Girl Scouts to increase their awareness and knowledge of environmental concerns related to our forest resources, develop their own environmental "land ethic", and apply newly developed skills by taking an active role in working individually and collectively to improve the forest environments in their own communities.



A brownie scout patch designed to depict forest resources and related environmental awareness issues.

Augusta School District

\$19,639

(Augusta)

The Mobile Lab

For staff and students to build and equip a "Mobile Lab" facility by converting a district owned school bus into a classroom on wheels which will provide staff members the opportunity to organize environmental education resources and materials, and get classes of students into the field with greater frequency for field studies and independent research.



Augusta

Photo: Paul Tweed



BOW

Photo: Mindy Brown



Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW)

\$14,184

(Stevens Point)

Prairie Chicken Workshop: An Experience-Based Education for Teachers to Promote Environmental Education Infusion in Wisconsin

For a 3-day prairie chicken teacher training workshop designed to provide the knowledge and educational resources teachers need to infuse environmentally-based curriculum into their classroom. Emphasis will be placed on learning prairie chicken ecology, hands-on experience in authentic field work through their participation in a prairie chicken booming ground census, the need for land conservation and the contributions of pioneering conservationists.

BOW

Photo: Mindy Brown



Educators learned about prairie chicken ecology and land conservation during the BOW environmental education workshop.

Berlin Area Public Schools

\$18,990

(Berlin)

Berlin Community School Forest Hands-On Learning Project

To support the development of cross-disciplinary forestry/woodland curricular topics and classroom activities, and to provide inservice and follow-up support services to the district's teachers in their efforts to incorporate use of the district's two school forest sites as part of their classes. Courses under all content areas will feature experiential learning activities and hands-on lessons that relate to a variety of forestry topics and align with Wisconsin model academic standards in environmental education.



Central Wisconsin Children's Museum

\$19,205

(Stevens Point)

Life in a Log Museum Exhibit and Program

To create an oversized professionally designed steel, fiberglass, and foam "rotting" log that will serve as a safe, non-toxic interactive nature exhibit to teach children pre-kindergarten through age ten about forest ecology. The log exhibit will feature removable bark pieces for discovering layers of the log, cavities to crawl into to learn how animals use logs for shelter, as well as fabricated log creatures like ants and bark beetles to manipulate. Programming will include activities and information about the forest food chain (What's for Lunch?), forest habitat (Everybody Needs a Home), and animal adaptations in the forest (My Home is Just Right).





Central Wisconsin Wildlife Center (CWWC) **\$12,800**
(Custer)
Forest Life Traveling Classroom Program

To create a traveling, interactive, hour-long environmental education program designed to teach 1st and 2nd grade students about adaptations of animals that live in the forest by having students participate in introductory, activity stations (four), and wrap-up segments.

Door County Land Trust **\$18,734**
(Ephraim)
Development of a Sustainable Forestry Education Program for the Richter Community Forest

To develop a sustainable forestry education program for use both in Washington Island Community School's classrooms and at the Richter Community Forest with a focus on forest ecology, sustainable forestry concepts and practices and economics. In addition, six adult education programs and sustainable forestry demonstrations will be offered at the Richter Community Forest for Island land owners, residents, and the general public.

Evansville Community School District **\$20,000**
(Evansville)
Energy: A Focus on our Future

To create a curriculum that captures the imagination about global energy issues, alternative sources of energy, and conservation and utilizes the alternative energy systems (photovoltaics, geothermal, etc.) being planned for the new high school.

Global Action Plan:
Madison EcoTeam Program **\$18,762**
(Madison)
Madison Area Household EcoTeam Program Energy Conservation Project

To educate and empower Madison area residential electric customers to reduce their energy use by providing access to Wisconsin Focus on Energy programs that encourage change to individual lifestyle habits.

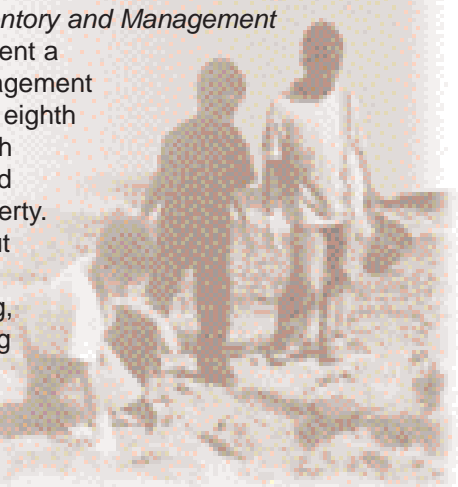


Jane Goodall Institute **\$9,965**
(Stevens Point)
University Students Teach Environmental Education in Wisconsin Schools

To empower two new Wisconsin college Roots & Shoots groups to be established and trained to develop, evaluate, and present ongoing environmental education programs in area K-12 schools. A state-wide support network for WI Roots & Shoots groups will also be established and allow groups to exchange program ideas, environmental education resources, training materials, and recruitment techniques.

La Crosse School District:
School on the River **\$15,796**
(La Crosse)
Bottomland Forest Inventory and Management

To develop and implement a bottomland forest management project for seventh and eighth grade students in which students will assess and monitor a piece of property. Activities will include but not be limited to: orienteering, storytelling, timber cruising, seedling survival, soil analysis, and wildlife interaction.





**Lumberjack Resource Conservation
and Development Council, Inc. \$19,615**
(Tomahawk)
*Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Education Program
(WKFEP) Video Vignettes*

To develop video vignettes that complement Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Education Program activities.

Middleton-Cross Plains School District \$6,000
(Middleton)
Outdoor Classrooms for Environmental Awareness

For students at four schools to design, plan, and establish varied habitats to use as outdoor classrooms including: prairies, wetlands, vegetable, flower, and butterfly gardens. Staff will receive training and resource materials adapted to outdoor experiential education and then create a resource guide containing lessons and activities.

**Midwest Renewable Energy Association
(MREA) \$1,700**
(Custer)
Redesigning the Energy Cycle Display Board

To redesign and build a new educational display board for the "Energy Cycle." The new display board will be constructed of more durable and lighter materials, less confusing to set up, and easier to transport. The plans for the new display board will be made available to all facilities that have Energy Cycles in hope that the cycles will once again be a part of energy education.



Navarino Nature Center \$4,437
(Shawano)
Shawano-area Watershed Education Resource Center

To provide a local source of water-related equipment and educational resources for citizens, civic groups, and schools in the Shawano area.

Neighborhood House of Milwaukee, Inc. \$15,576
(Milwaukee)
The Environmental Awareness Model (TEAM)

To increase outdoor educational opportunities for inner city, predominantly minority youth and families by developing a set of group work-based curricula designed to increase awareness of the interdependence of the ecosystem and human life, increase knowledge of a self-contained ecosystem and its interdependent parts, and increase appreciation of the need to maintain and sustain healthy habitat.

North Crawford School District \$4,800
(Gays Mills)
North Crawford Energy Garden

To create an "energy garden" consisting of solar electric panels, a small wind generator with storage batteries, an electric bike or other vehicle, various measurement tools, and reference and teaching materials to be used to stimulate K-12 North Crawford students to grow in their awareness and knowledge of electrical power and to develop attitudes of concern for our environment.

**Pri-Ru-Ta Resource Conservation
& Development** **\$18,000**

(Medford)

*Integrating School Forests into Classroom
Curriculum in Three School Districts*

For a forestry education coordinator to assist three school districts in making better use of school forest lands. Age appropriate programs will be developed for all seasons with the goal of every student visiting the school forest at least once annually to participate in hands-on-outdoor learning experiences starting with concrete activities for younger students and building to more abstract concepts for high school students.

Richland School District **\$970**

(Richland Center)

Better Woodlots for Wildlife, Not Livestock

Elementary and high school students will combine efforts in forestry education. The combined 50 students will work together in observing and monitoring changes in a woodlot to which livestock have pastured versus their absence. High school students will mentor elementary students in planting trees as well as thinning the current undesired species. The high school students will provide fencing for the pastured area for the livestock outside the woodlot. The results are to see the improvements woodlots make without livestock.

Shiocton School District **\$19,993**

(Shiocton)

*Forest Restoration and Ecology Education
(FREE)*

To establish a hands-on environmental education forestry project in which students, their teachers, and community volunteers work together to restore to forest two acres of district-owned land. Through the reforestation project students will learn sustainable forestry concepts, conservation, preservation, and woodland management in a hands-on environment that will grow with them. Students and teachers will further enrich their understanding of sustainable forestry with field trips to local tree farms, nurseries, and old growth forests. Teachers will create sequenced, interdisciplinary K-12 environmental education curricula focused on both classroom and on-site exploration of the school forest and concepts related to forest protection and responsible management.

Spencer School District **\$19,980**

(Spencer)

Spencer School Forest Project

For the integration of the school forest into the curriculum, development of a forest management plan, site enhancement of the forest plot, development of cross-curricular "hands-on" science kits, the provision of staff training, and the advancement of community knowledge and experience in environmental issues related to forests.

**St. Croix County Land and Water
Conservation Department** **\$4,991**

(Baldwin)

Information and Education Activities Specialist

To hire a staff person to provide various environmental education forums including conservation field days, stream ecology workshops, classroom presentations, and a teacher training workshop.

Stevens Point Area School District **\$7,550**

(Stevens Point)

Pointing to the Sun

For approximately 550 sixth grade students in ten elementary schools to build, test, and race solar powered vehicles. The activity will supplement the science and environmental curriculum as well as provide an opportunity for integration of other topic areas. Energy awareness and alternative energy usage will be over-riding themes. Teachers will be offered a workshop opportunity to develop the solar vehicle unit into an interdisciplinary unit.



**Stevens Point Area School District:
Jackson Elementary** **\$1,407**
(Stevens Point)
*Integrated Environmental Learning
Opportunities*

The intermediate students of Jackson School will integrate science, art, and technology to expand their environmental knowledge of plant life, their artistic visual awareness of nature's forms, and their computer skills. A plant field guide of the school's outdoor garden area will document these newly acquired skills. Repeated visits to the garden will enable ecological and artistic concepts such as variation, succession, shape, pattern, etc. to be addressed. Art lessons will center on the elements and principles of design, as plant forms are incorporated into works of art. Local Master Gardeners will host walking field trips, and spend time with the students and their teachers, to help them research plants for the field guide. Students will be taught how to care for a variety of plants during fall and spring planting sessions.



Photo by Sunshine Kupusta

Trees For Tomorrow **\$17,490**
(Eagle River)
*Tooling Up to Teach Forestry: A Workshop for
Wisconsin K-12 Teachers*

For a five-day forestry education workshop for teachers at Trees for Tomorrow held during the summer of 2003. The course will be designed to provide knowledge, skills and educational resources teachers need to help them teach contemporary forest management concepts and practices to their students in an objective, factual way so students may understand the forestry practices that produce the variety of forest products which support our everyday lifestyles.

University of Wisconsin-Extension **\$5,706**
(Madison)
*Forestry Residential Environmental Education
Program*

For a multi-day residential program during which students will learn forestry concepts and skills through hands-on, experiential activities. Teachers will receive a binder of all curriculum including post-activities so that they may continue forestry education in their classrooms.





**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point:
Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center** **\$4,810**

(Stevens Point)
Energizing the Wisconsin Groundwater Festival

For a two-day festival to increase public awareness regarding the importance of groundwater and energy conservation, their impact on the groundwater and energy resources, and ways they can provide action to remediate local, regional and statewide issues in order to protect groundwater and conserve energy.

**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point:
Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center** **\$5,255**

(Stevens Point)
Communities Conserving Water and Energy through Groundwater Guardian

For residents of up to 12 Wisconsin communities participating in the national Groundwater Guardian (GG) program to learn about the link between water conservation and energy conservation, and the importance of both to the environment and their personal and community finances. The expected result is that the awareness of hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin residents about energy and water conservation will be increased, and that many people will choose from simple alternatives to save significant amounts of water and energy in their homes.



Photo: Heidi Hoover

**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point:
Center for Land Use Education** **\$5,000**
(Stevens Point)
Land Use Environmental Education in the Social Studies Curriculum

For a 4-day workshop to aid and instruct Wisconsin social studies teachers in the development and enhancement of their curriculum with techniques and resources to infuse and integrate land use and environmental education issues and concepts into their curriculum. Feedback from workshop participants will be used in the development of a conceptual framework for land use environmental education (LUEE).

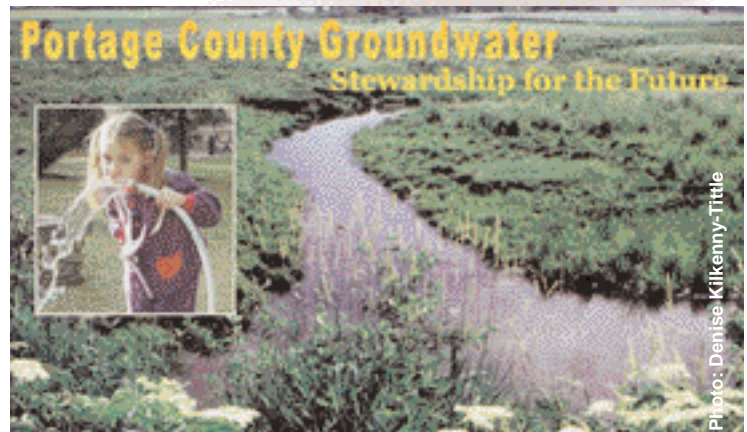


Photo: Denise Kilkenny-Tittle

Portage County groundwater website.
www.uwsp.edu/water/portage



Wausaukee School District **\$14,325**
(Wausaukee)
Wausaukee School District Environmental Education Project

For thirty-nine teachers to collaborate across curricular areas to develop comprehensive units that incorporate hands-on activities, the use of a nature trail, and classroom resources to integrate the Wisconsin environmental education standards into the school curriculum.

Wildlife in Need Center, Inc. **\$772**
(Oconomowoc)
Environmental Classes for Waukesha Retirees

To develop an environmental education program for retired individuals in Waukesha County, specifically for those who take advantage of the Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) Learning in Retirement curriculum. Once developed, class materials could be taken to community centers, nursing homes, and many other places where seniors gather.

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education (WAEE) **\$14,335**
(Stevens Point)
WAEE Resources on the Web

For creation of a web based resource which provides access to environmental education lessons that are searchable by grade, subject, and/or academic standard.

Wisconsin Dells School District **\$20,000**
(Wisconsin Dells)
Wisconsin Dells Forest Learning Center Project

For students, teachers, and community volunteers to participate in citizen action experiences as they work together to turn a 62 acre district property which includes both a pine plantation and an upland forest into an accessible, teacher- and student-friendly educational resource. For fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and high school teachers to work together to create interdisciplinary environmental education curriculum centered on the use of the upland forest and pine plantation.

Wisconsin Forest Productivity Council **\$20,000**
(Rhinelander)
Forest Management for Beginners

To conduct four workshops for private woodland owners to help them learn about the benefits of forest management, sustainable forestry, "best management practices" as well as technical, financial, and educational assistance available.

Wisconsin Woodland Owners' Association (WWOA) **\$12,123**
(Stevens Point)
Wisconsin Woodland Owner Awareness of Forest Stewardship Opportunities

To create a new brochure and exhibit emphasizing good forest stewardship through continuing landowner education. The website will be upgraded to allow 24-hour service to woodland owners on a variety of sustainable forestry issues. The new sample timber sale contract will be featured to encourage use of a written contract by private woodland owners.



Grant Application Statistics

2001

Total Dollars Requested \$1,453,637.45
Average Request \$12,978.90

Proposals Received 112

	Projects Funded	Dollar Value Funded
General EE	21	\$274,376.00
Forestry Education	11	\$161,338.00
Energy Education	13	\$125,768.00

2002

Total Dollars Requested \$1,036,065.90
Average Request \$13,282.90

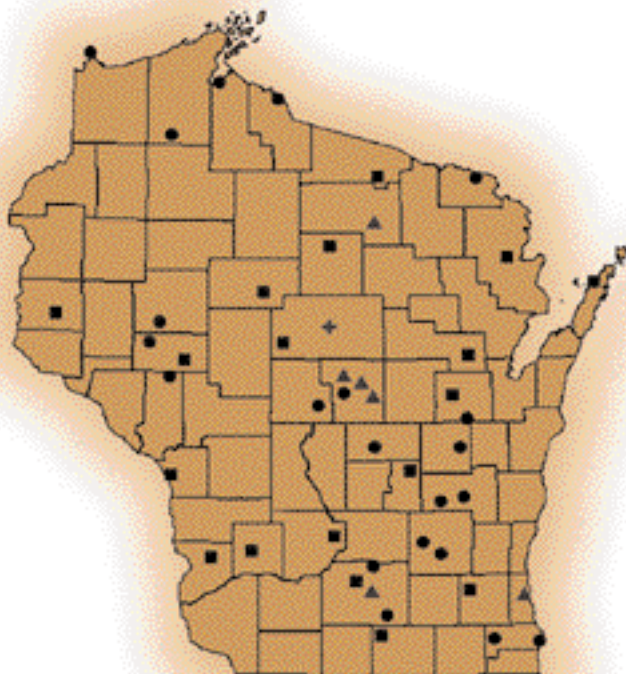
Proposals Received 78*

	Projects Funded	Dollar Value Funded
General EE	12 *	\$110,631.00 *
Forestry Education	18 □	\$293,510.00 □
Energy Education	13	\$70,752.00

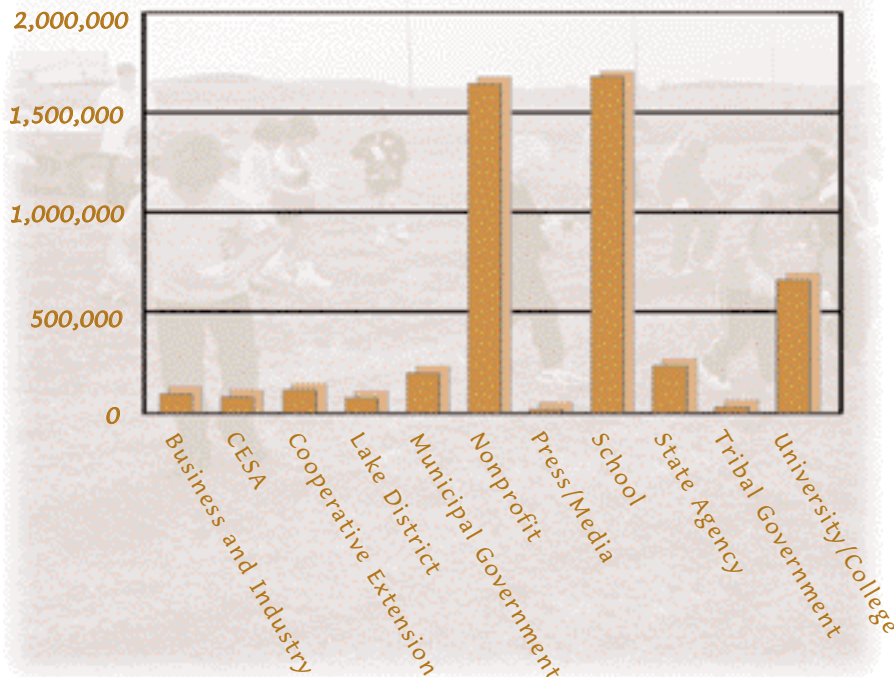
* Dollars available for general grants program significantly reduced from historical levels.

□ Dollars available for forestry education grants program significantly increased from historical levels.

Grant Cities



- 2001 grant recipient
- 2002 grant recipient
- ✚ multiple recipients in the same year
- ▲ recipients in both years



Historical Record of All Projects Funded Since 1990

Type of Agency	Total Value Funded
Business/Industry	\$81,293.00
CESA	\$69,943.00
Cooperative Extension	\$101,944.00
Lake District	\$63,802.00
Municipal Government	\$187,269.00
Nonprofit	\$1,637,333.70
Press/Media	\$11,900.00
Schools	\$1,670,383.70
State Agency	\$225,277.00
Tribal Government	\$21,150.00
University/College	\$656,393.50

Development Program

One of the primary duties for the WEEB, as directed by 1989 Wisconsin Act 299, is to be a catalyst for seeking private funds in support of the grant program. The "Environmental Education Fund of Wisconsin" serves as the repository for gifts.

The WEEB created the "Environmental Education Fund" in the spring of 1999. The EE Fund is comprised of an immediate dispersal account and an endowment account. Contributions to the immediate dispersal account are withdrawn each April, and the funds are used to supplement the annual general grant program. Contributions to the endowment account remain in the fund, while the interest generated is used to supplement the annual grant program. The current balance of the immediate dispersal account is \$1,613. The current balance of the endowment account is \$5,753.

The elimination of the \$200,000 annual general public revenue appropriation has severely limited the WEEB's ability to carry out its mission. While forestry education programs have blossomed, other initiatives have languished. The WEEB has undertaken a number of initiatives to address this loss.

A "Task Force" was established. The goal was to restore the general program revenue appropriation to its historical level. Knowing this would be a difficult task, the Task Force also has worked toward 1) obtaining donations to be used to supplement the general grant program and 2) identifying other sources of revenue.

In March 2002, an "EE Works for Wisconsin" pamphlet was produced and distributed to solicit private donations. The pamphlet highlighted changes to the funding for the WEEB grant program and requested contributions. Pamphlets were distributed via the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education's network mailing and also placed into the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education's annual fall conference registration packets.

In July 2003, an email message was sent to members of the environmental education community seeking their financial support of the grant program.

The WEEB's administrative budget limits the type and number of solicitations that can be conducted.

EE Fund Contributors (Summer 2001- Summer 2003)

Founding Contributors (\$500 or more)

Randy Champeau

Charter Contributors (\$100-\$499)

Michael and Janet Brandt
Stephen and Ginny Carlton
Central Wisconsin Wildlife Center
Sisters of St. Francis Assisi
Al Stenstrup
Richard Wilke

Annual Contributors (\$25-\$99)

Krista Connors James
Marilyn Grygo
Hans Kuhn
Ted and Cyndi May
Nalani McCutcheon
Joe Smogor
Suzanne Wade
Debora Wearne-Neurohr

Contributors (\$1-\$24)

Susan Ermer
Michael J. Vann
James Wasley

In December of 2000, the WEEB submitted a \$5,000 grant proposal to the PG & E Environmental Education Grant Program. The proposal was to allow additional individuals to attend a conference on how to include more environmental education and energy education in their college courses. The targeted college courses are for students desiring to become classroom teachers. The proposal was not funded. Only one Wisconsin based project was funded. The Kenosha Unified School District received a grant to enable an ecology class to use an integrated approach to investigate water chemistry, meteorological influences and the biotic community of a spring-fed pond.

The Status of EE in Wisconsin

Current information on the status of environmental education in Wisconsin is limited. The elimination of the Environmental Education Consultant position at the Department of Public Instruction has significantly impacted the Board's ability to monitor curriculum development, dissemination and implementation programs; teacher training programs; and student literacy levels. In addition, with only a single employee, the WEEB itself does not have the staff to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the status of environmental education in the State. Episodic data can be gathered via a review of the grantee's quarterly and final reports, site review data forms, and the "Need Statements" included within the grant proposals.

Curriculum Development, Dissemination and Implementation Programs

Despite limited resources, the WEEB's efforts to promote quality environmental education have continued. For example, the WEEB was able to facilitate the creation of an "Early Childhood Activity Guide" and music CD-ROM which will serve as supplements to the widely used K-8 Project Learning Tree curriculum. These new early childhood curriculum materials were created through a grant to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (2001-0028) and will be distributed statewide.

A grant to the Beaver Dam Unified School District (2001-0063) allowed the staff and students to work with representatives of the US Department of Interior at the Horicon Marsh facility, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the UW-Arboretum's Earth Partnership Program to convert the Beaver Dam Charter School's entire curriculum to an environmental focus using hands-on, relevant, project-based curriculum focused on marsh, prairie and lake. This newly created charter school may serve as a model for other districts considering such changes to their curricula.



Teacher Training Programs

While creating and distributing curriculum materials is an important step in achieving environmental literacy for Wisconsin students, the WEEB recognizes more needs to be done to insure the State's teachers receive the training they need.

Both the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 grant program application included a pre-proposal priority for "statewide implementation of environmental education program approval guidelines for PI 34 Standards for teacher licensing and certification". Unfortunately no proposals were submitted in this area.

The WEEB did fund a grant to the UW-Stevens Point College of Professional Studies to identify opportunities for linkages and partnerships between family and consumer education instructors and curricula and energy/environmental education staff and curricula. A number of follow-up statewide initiatives have resulted.



Student Literacy Levels

In July 2000, the WEEB formed an ad-hoc committee on environmental literacy assessment. In April 2001, the WEEB Assessment Committee met to examine the "Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts" tests used in the Wisconsin Student Assessment system at grades four, eight and ten. The committee's goal was to determine the extent to which these tests assessed environmental literacy (i.e., the model academic standards for environmental education). The WSAS tests assess knowledge and concepts in the core areas of science, social studies, math and language arts. While not specifically designed for Wisconsin, the tests are strongly correlated to the Wisconsin Academic Standards in these areas. Upon reviewing the tests the committee came to the following conclusions:

- The science section at each grade level includes a number of items addressing environmental content.
 - The social studies section at each grade level includes a number of items addressing environmental content.
 - The language arts section at the tenth grade level only includes a number of items addressing environmental content.
 - The language arts section at the fourth and eighth grade levels includes essentially no items addressing environmental content.
 - The math section includes essentially no items addressing environmental content at all three levels.
 - The items that addressed environmental content focused largely on EE content standard B: Knowledge of Environmental Processes and Systems.
 - Overall, the WSAS/Knowledge and Skills tests at the fourth, eighth, and tenth grades provide a very incomplete picture of the environmental literacy of Wisconsin students. It would be a hard leap to suggest these tests assess environmental literacy.
- In the future the DPI should work with test developers/providers to develop a protocol for assessing environmental literacy.
 - WEEB should identify additional points for collecting data related to the environmental literacy of K-12 students. One obvious choice is the 12th grade graduation test.
 - Given that the status of preservice teacher education in environmental education is unknown, it would be wise to assess preservice teachers' competency to teach environmental education. WEEB should require the "Content Knowledge Assessment" of graduating preservice teachers to include items assessing competency to teach environmental education. The Department of Public Instruction will oversee the development of this test.

The 2002-2003 grant program application included a pre-proposal priority for "statewide assessment of student environmental literacy". No proposals were submitted in this area. The WEEB feels more effort will have to be expended in this area.

Based on the above conclusions the committee recommended the following:

- WEEB should encourage the DPI to undertake a more detailed analysis of the WSAS tests in the form of a data retreat. The data retreat should follow a process similar to the one done in the area of science.



Some educators are using student created projects to assess environmental literacy.

Future Directions

Statewide Initiatives

Since its inception, the board has been a very active "hands on" working group. In addition to operating an environmental grants program, the board has become recognized as a consensus-building group on environmental education issues. The unique make-up and mission of the board position it to provide needed leadership to environmental education while recognizing the importance of building common purpose and direction among diverse stakeholders.

It is with this in mind that the WEEB facilitated "EE 2005, A Plan for Advancing Environmental Education in Wisconsin". It is this plan that identifies the state-wide initiatives the Board intends to take during the next few years. The plan represents the thinking and input of hundreds of stakeholders across Wisconsin. It identifies six major priorities. They are:

- Support the Implementation of EE in Schools
- Develop Leadership in Environmental Education
- Expand Non-Formal Environmental Education
- Conduct Environmental Literacy Assessment
- Communicate the Environmental Education Message
- Expand Private Sector Funding for Environmental Education

Copies of the plan are available from the WEEB office or it may be viewed on the WEEB website.

Initiatives undertaken in 2003 include supporting the Governor's High School Conference on the Environment and co-sponsoring a meeting of water educators.

Governor's High School Conference on the Environment

During the WEEB's very first grant cycle in 1990, a grant was given to the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education (WCEE) to plan and conduct a conference on the environment for high school students. Since then the WCEE has held a theme based, primarily adult led, first come-first served conference for high school students. The 2002 conference proved to be so popular that many students and their teachers had to be turned away.

In December of 2002, WEEB members took an active role in evaluating the current format of the conference and suggesting options for the future. (Five WEEB members and the WEEB staff person serve on the 13 member conference advisory committee.) The committee recommended changing the conference structure to a tripartite format (content, leadership, action) and limiting participation to four to eight students per high school. The goal is to incorporate more student leadership and participation opportunities and enable students from more school districts to participate. A 2003-2004 WEEB grant awarded to the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education will enable the implementation of these recommended programmatic changes.

The committee also recommended making the event more prestigious. In May 2003, the Governor gave his endorsement. Current event sponsors include:

- Aldo Leopold Nature Center
- Center for Watershed Science and Education
- Office of Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle
- The Nature Conservancy-Wisconsin Chapter
- University of Wisconsin-Stout
- Wisconsin 4-H
- Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters
- Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education
- Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
- Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program
- Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Education Program (LEAF)

The "Pooling Our Resources: Understanding and Protecting Water in Wisconsin" conference will be held in December of 2003. It is anticipated this will be the first of many "Governor's High School Conferences on the Environment" to come. For more information about the conference please see the conference website at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/youthconference/index.htm>

K-12 Water Education Forum

This day long meeting gathered about 25 water educators from across the state to determine needs and future directions of water education. Seventeen agencies were represented. Agenda items included:

- A review of what is currently happening in Wisconsin K-12 water education;
- Examples of comprehensive approaches to Wisconsin environmental education (e.g., forestry and energy);
- Analysis of strategies related to a comprehensive K-12 Water Resources Education Program for Wisconsin.

A report with the results of the meeting will be released in the fall of 2003.

Grant Program

The WEEB continues to work with members of the Department of Administration and Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation regarding the "Focus on Energy" component of the WEEB grant program. It is anticipated that the Wisconsin Renewable Energy Network (WREN) will become a future partner in this initiative.

The WEEB Development Committee and its associated Task Forces will continue the effort to restore the funding level for the general grant program to its historical level.

Development Program

To date solicitations for contributions have primarily been directed to individuals within the environmental education community who are relatively familiar with the WEEB and its programs. In order to solicit from individuals and institutions who are not familiar with the WEEB, resource materials need to be developed. The WEEB intends to use this biennial report and a PowerPoint presentation that is currently under development as solicitation aides. Members of the WEEB and the Development Committee will develop a list of potential donors and will conduct solicitations. Again, the amount and type of solicitation that can be undertaken is limited by the WEEB administrative budget.

The Development Committee's 2003 operational plan calls for the establishment of an additional task force whose charge will be to investigate the formation of a 501(c) 3 organization that will serve as a "friends" organization to the WEEB. The establishment of such a "friends" organization will allow donations to be handled directly. Currently donations are processed through the UW-Stevens Point Foundation office.

The WEEB is also looking into establishing a mechanism for receiving direct on-line contributions. Since a secure network will be required, a contract with an outside institution/vendor may be required. The UW-Stevens Point Foundation is not currently able to provide this service.



As citizens of this state we all have a stake in preserving and enhancing our environmental heritage. We invite your input as we promote learning opportunities for our citizens so that everyone, youngest to oldest, will gain more knowledge and skill to ensure an even more positive legacy for our environment. Each individual's efforts do make a difference!

Thank You Volunteer Grant Proposal Reviewers for Making EE Work for Wisconsin

Ackerstein, Dan 2003
Wisconsin Energy
Conservation Corporation
(WECC)

Alvarez-Lewis, Christina
2001,2003

Becker, Brooks 2001-2
Retired

Bircher, Chip 2001-3
Wisconsin Public Service

Blomberg, Debra 2001-2
Blomberg Logging

Bohanan, Robert 2001-3
UW-Madison: Center for
Biology Education

Bowman, Joe 2003

Brandt, Janet 2002
Wisconsin Energy
Conservation Corporation
(WECC)

Brown, Mindy 2002
Becoming an Outdoors
Woman

Carlton, Ginny 2001-3
Wisconsin Environmental
Education Board

Connors James, Krista
2003
UW-Stout

Cooper, Terrie 2003
Door County Land Trust

Danoski, Mary 2001-2
Fox Lake Inland
Lake District

Elmhorst, Katie 2001-3
Girl Scouts of America:
Indian Waters Council

Ermer, Susan 2002
UWSP: Wisconsin Center
for Environmental
Education

Fannucchi, Genny
2001-3
DNR: Forestry Bureau

Flitter, Michael 2003
PKI International

Frosh, Deb 2003
Riverland Conservancy

Gilson-Pierece, Gail
2001-3
Trees for Tomorrow

Gransee, Michelle 2002
Becoming an Outdoors
Woman

Heyde, Mark 2001
Marathon County Forester

Higgins, Jeremy 2003
National Environmental
Education Advancement
Project (NEEAP)

Hruska, Ann 2001-2
Iron Mountain Schools

Hulet, Christine 2001
DOA: Division of Energy

Johncock, Kendra 2003

Jordan, Jay 2001,2003
DNR: Dunn County
Forester

Kinzel, Steve 2001-3
UW-Extension: 4H

Klippel, Judy 2001-3
DNR: Havenwoods
Environmental Education
Ctr.

Koziel, Rick 2001-3
Beaver Creek Reserve

Krahn-Tulman, Kathy
2001-2
CESA 10

Kuntz, Kathy 2001-3
Energy Center of Wisconsin
WI Energy Conserv. Corp.

Lane, Jennie 2001-3
WI K-12 Energy Education
Program (KEEP)

Lapidakis, Jerry 2001-3
Wisconsin Woodland
Owners Association

Ledin, Dolly 2001-2
UW-Madison

Lochner, Paul 2001-3
DNR: Portage County
Forester

Marinac, Pat 2001-3
Appleton Area
School District

Meunier, Mary 2003
DOA: Division of Energy

Minnear, Andrea 2003
Energy Center of Wisconsin

Morgan, Carrie 2002
DNR: Communication
and Education

Pauely, Greg 2001
Vulcan Chemicals

Peri, Phyllis 2001
UWSP: Wisconsin Center
for Environmental
Education

Samuel, Barbara 2001-2
DOA: Division of Energy

Slavick, Allison 2001
Cable Natural
History Museum

Smith, Barbara 2002-3
DOA: Division of Energy

Sterling, Clay 2003
Midwest Renewable
Energy Association

Stewart, Jen 2000-1
Riverland Conservancy

Stodd, Cecilia 2001
DOA: Division of Energy

Tang, Chin Chun 2003
Center for Land Use
Education

Thompson, Barbara
2003
West Salem School District

Tollefson, Tim 2001
StoraEnso:
Timberland Division

Wade, Suzanne 2001-2
UW-Extension:
Jefferson City

Wearne-Neurohr, Deb
2001,2003
Portage Community
School District

Wiener, Rob 2001-3
Trees for Tomorrow

Wise, Karen 2002-3
Chippewa Falls Area
Unified School District

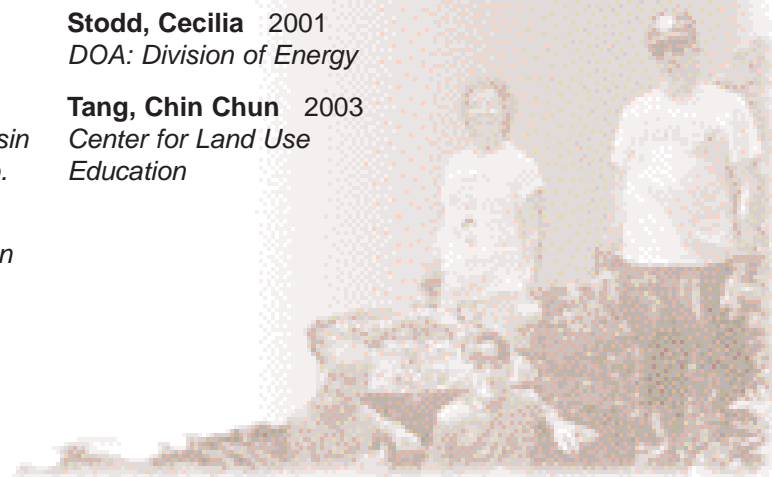
Wurl, Pete 2003
Wisconsin Public Service

Yesney, Ron 2002
UW-Extension: CONRAD

Yockers, Dennis 2003
UWSP: Wisconsin Center
for Environmental
Education

Zagrzebski, Kelly
2001, 2003
Wisconsin Public Service

Zbleski, Bobbi
2001, 2003
UWSP: Wisconsin Center
for Environmental
Education



Our Environment: A Natural Resource for Creative Thinking



Grade 6
Artwork: Marc Gruber



Grade 3

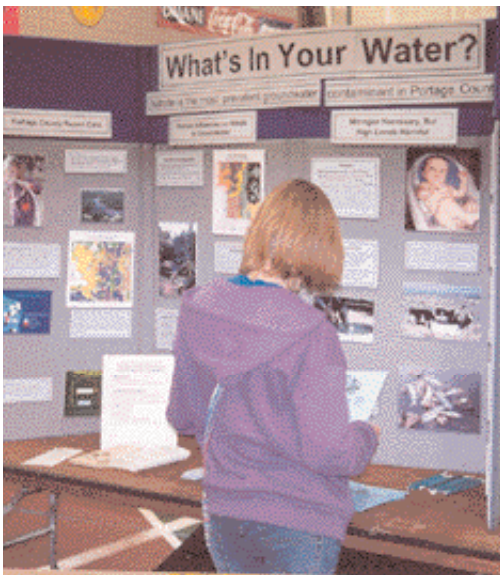
Artwork: Vanessa Hinkle





Artwork: Zeke McDonald-Lewis

Grade 2



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